Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. – 48. (Canceled).

49. (New) A method, comprising:

instantiating a first child controller from a first parent controller, said first child controller having a first threshold severity level, said first child controller to write a first received log or trace message into a first respective log or trace file if said first received log or trace message has a severity level above said first threshold severity level, said first child controller having a first minimum severity level setting and a first maximum severity level setting, said first child controller adopting a first inherited severity level from said first parent controller as said first threshold severity level because said first inherited severity level resides between said first minimum and first maximum severity level settings; and,

instantiating a second child controller from a second parent controller, said second child controller having a second threshold severity level, said second child controller to write a second received log or trace message into a second respective log or trace file if said second received log or trace message has a severity level above said second threshold severity level, said second child controller having a second minimum severity level setting and a second maximum severity level setting, said second child controller not adopting a second inherited severity level from said second parent controller as said second threshold severity level and instead:

adopting said second minimum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides below said second minimum severity level setting; or,

adopting said second maximum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides above said second maximum severity level setting.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein one of the following is true:

a) said first and second child controllers are log controllers, said first and second received messages are log messages and said first and second respective files are log files;

b) said first and second child controllers are trace controllers, said first and second received messages are trace messages and said first and second respective files are trace files;

c) said first child controller is a log controller, said first received message is a log message and said first respective file is a log file, said second child controller is a trace controller, said second received message is a trace message and said second respective file is a trace file.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein c) above is true and said method further comprises:

informing said first (log) controller that said first (log) controller is to write messages into both said first respective log file and said second respective trace file such that said second (trace) controller is no longer utilized.

52. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein said first inherited severity level is selected for the first parent controller from a plurality of available severity levels that at least include:

        a) a first severity level that indicates the existence of an anomaly that an application can recover from, said application also able to perform a desired task notwithstanding the anomaly;

        b) a second severity level that indicates the existence of an error that an application can recover from, said application also being unable to perform a desired task because of the error;

said selecting of said first inherited severity level including selecting one of a), b) above for said first parent controller.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the available security levels further include:

        a third severity level whose corresponding messages contain information for debugging;

        a fourth severity level that permits its corresponding messages to contain path information for looping and branching;

        a fifth severity level whose messages are an echo of what has been performed.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the first and second severity levels are higher severity than the third, fourth and fifth severity levels.

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55. (New) An article of manufacture comprising program code stored on a computer readable storage medium, said program code to be read from said computer readable storage medium and processed by one or more processors to perform a method, comprising:

instantiating a first child controller from a first parent controller, said first child controller having a first threshold severity level, said first child controller designed to write a first received log or trace message into a first respective log or trace file if said first received log or trace message has a severity level above said first threshold severity level, said first child controller having a first minimum severity level setting and a first maximum severity level setting, said first child controller adopting a first inherited severity level from said first parent controller as said first threshold severity level because said first inherited severity level resides between said first minimum and first maximum severity level settings; and,

instantiating a second child controller from a second parent controller, said second child controller having a second threshold severity level, said second child controller designed to write a second received log or trace message into a second respective log or trace file if said second received log or trace message has a severity level above said second threshold severity level, said second child controller having a second minimum severity level setting and a second maximum severity level setting, said second child controller not adopting a second inherited severity level from said second parent controller as said second threshold severity level and instead:

adopting said second minimum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides below said second minimum severity level setting; or,

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adopting said second maximum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides above said second maximum severity level setting.

56. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 55 wherein one of the following is true:

a) said first and second child controllers are log controllers, said first and second received messages are log messages and said first and second respective files are log files;

b) said first and second child controllers are trace controllers, said first and second received messages are trace messages and said first and second respective files are trace files;

c) said first child controller is a log controller, said first received message is a log message and said first respective file is a log file, said second child controller is a trace controller, said second received message is a trace message and said second respective file is a trace file.

57. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 56 wherein c) above is true and said method further comprises:

informing said first (log) controller that said first (log) controller is to write messages into both said first respective log file and said second respective trace file such that said second (trace) controller is no longer utilized.

58. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 55 wherein said first inherited severity level is selected for the first parent controller from a plurality of available severity levels that at least include:

a) a first severity level that indicates the existence of an anomaly that an application can recover from, said application also able to perform a desired task notwithstanding the anomaly;

b) a second severity level that indicates the existence of an error that an application can recover from, said application also being unable to perform a desired task because of the error;

said selecting of said first inherited severity level including selecting one of a), b) above for said first parent controller.

59. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 58 wherein the available security levels further include:

a third severity level whose corresponding messages contain information for debugging;

a fourth severity level that permits its corresponding messages to contain path information for looping and branching;

a fifth severity level whose messages are an echo of what has been performed.

60. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 59 wherein the first and second severity levels are higher severity than the third, fourth and fifth severity levels.

61. (New) A computer comprising program code stored in memory of said computer system, said memory coupled to one or more processors of said computing system, said program code to be read from said memory and processed by said one or more processors to perform a method, comprising:

instantiating a first child controller from a first parent controller, said first child controller having a first threshold severity level, said first child controller designed to write a first received log or trace message into a first respective log or trace file if said first received log or trace message has a severity level above said first threshold severity level, said first child controller having a first minimum severity level setting and a first maximum severity level setting, said first child controller adopting a first inherited severity level from said first parent controller as said first threshold severity level because said first inherited severity level resides between said first minimum and first maximum severity level settings; and,

instantiating a second child controller from a second parent controller, said second child controller having a second threshold severity level, said second child controller designed to write a second received log or trace message into a second respective log or trace file if said second received log or trace message has a severity level above said second threshold severity level, said second child controller having a second minimum severity level setting and a second maximum severity level setting, said second child controller not adopting a second inherited severity level from said second parent controller as said second threshold severity level and instead:

adopting said second minimum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides below said second minimum severity level setting; or,

adopting said second maximum severity level setting as said second threshold severity level because said second inherited severity level resides above said second maximum severity level setting.

62. (New) The computer of claim 61 wherein one of the following is true:

a) said first and second child controllers are log controllers, said first and second received messages are log messages and said first and second respective files are log files;

b) said first and second child controllers are trace controllers, said first and second received messages are trace messages and said first and second respective files are trace files;

c) said first child controller is a log controller, said first received message is a log message and said first respective file is a log file, said second child controller is a trace controller, said second received message is a trace message and said second respective file is a trace file.

63. (New) The computer of claim 62 wherein c) above is true and said method further comprises:

informing said first (log) controller that said first (log) controller is to write messages into both said first respective log file and said second respective trace file such that said second (trace) controller is no longer utilized.

64. (New) The computer of claim 61 wherein said first inherited severity level is selected for the first parent controller from a plurality of available severity levels that at least include:

a) a first severity level that indicates the existence of an anomaly that an application can recover from, said application also able to perform a desired task notwithstanding the anomaly;

b) a second severity level that indicates the existence of an error that an application can recover from, said application also being unable to perform a desired task because of the error;

said selecting of said first inherited severity level including selecting one of a), b) above for said first parent controller.

65. (New) The computer of claim 64 wherein the available security levels further include:

a third severity level whose corresponding messages contain information for debugging;

a fourth severity level that permits its corresponding messages to contain path information for looping and branching;

a fifth severity level whose messages are an echo of what has been performed.

66. (New) The computer of claim 65 wherein the first and second severity levels are higher severity than the third, fourth and fifth severity levels.